SPECIAL MENTIONS

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, we take up the Special Mentions. Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal, not present, Shrimati Bimba Raikar.

Need for awarding deterrent punishment for atrocities against women

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR (Karnataka): Sir, the fact that an august and enlightened body like the Parliament of India has taken so long to enact the long-incubating women's Reservation Bill speaks eloquently of the deeply entrenched male hegemony in our polity, despite high sounding rhetoric about empowerment of women. It is no wonder crimes against women, especially rape and sexual harassment are on the rise and increasingly being reported both in the print media and on TV channels. Yet with our mind-set, we take these non-chalantly as daily weather reports.

Last week,a woman in Mandar Police Station in Ranchi was paraded naked by the villagers on her son's eloping with a girl in the neighbourhood. In the Mumbai metropplis, a girl was sexually assaulted in a Police Station during the day, some time last week.

Incensed with the rising crimes against women,the Supreme Court of India has recommended that the Parliament should amend the Indian Penal Code to award deterrent punishment to those found guilty of sexual abuse and harassment of women. The Court observed that the gravity of the offence in such cases is more serious than the enumerated categories indicated in sub-section (2) of section 376. I urge upon the Government to take this issue seriously and initiate moves to amend the IPC accordingly.

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल (राजस्थान) : सर, यह महिलाओं का मामला हैं हमारी महिलाएं मांग कर रही हैं कि उनको सहारा दिया जाए। सर, मैं भी एसोसिएट करती हूं।

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, बस आप एसोसिएट कीजिए।

डा॰ प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान) : सर, मैं भी एसोसिएट करती हूं।

Demand for Guidelines for Proper Medical care and Treatment to Prisoners in the Country

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala) : Sir, it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure protection of fundamental rights to life and personal liberty as enshrined in article 21 of the Constitution of India.

However, it is found that many of the prisons in India are not providing

proper medical care and treatment to the prisoners. One case in point is that of Mr. Abdul Nazar Madani, who has been detained in Coimbatore jail for the last seven years. He is not only handicapped but also suffering from acute diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, ulcer and cardiac problems. If proper medical care and treatment is not provided to him as well as to similar prisoners all over India, their lives will be in danger resulting in denial of justice forever.

Sir, I would, therefor, urge the Government of India to issue detailed guidelines to all the State Governments for ensuring proper medical care and treatment to the prisoners, including the one which I have quoted earlier. Sir, it is a very serious matter. The hon. Home Minister is sitting here....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is enough. Mr. Vayalar Ravi also wants to associate himself with it. In Special Mentions, nothing else can be added beyond the written text.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Sir, the hon. Home Minister is present in the House. He may respond to it. So many petitions have been given to the Government of India, in this respect. Sir, his family members and relatives are complaining...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Premachandran, you know the rules. If the Government wants to respond, I have no objection. If you speak beyond the written text, that would not be allowed to go on record. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Sir, the point is, at the time of his arrest his weight was 110 kilograms, but now it has been reduced to 60 kilograms.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal) : Sir, it is a question of human rights. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Sir, it is a question of human rights.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If the hon. Home Minister wants to respond, I have no objection. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala) : Sir, I only associate myself with what Mr. Premachandran has said. I am just saying one thing. This is a unique case where a person who is a political personality in the State is in the jail for the last seven years even without bail. He has got amputated legs.I can produce his photographs here. I can even give those photographs to you. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN . You have raised this issue and the Government will respond to it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Sir, we are requesting for providing him proper medical treatment. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : We are requesting for providing him medical treatment, nothing else. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Vayalar Ravi, the Home Minister wants to respond. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Sir, I can produce his photographs. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu) : He is in judicial custody. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : I want to make my request before the hon. Home Minister in a single sentence. We are only asking for medical care. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Sir, the hon. Home Minister wants to respond.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN . Please take your seat. The Home Minister wants to respond.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Sir, we have taken note of what the hon. Members have said here. It is, certainly, the duty of the Government to provide proper medical treatment even to persons who are put in jail. We will just pass it on to them, and we would like to see that medical treatment is made available.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Karnendu Bhattacharjee.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Sir, it should not be on the basis of the medical report given by the doctors in the jail. *(Interruptions)*

Shortage of Power in Assam and other North Eastern States

SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE (Assam) : Sir, I would like to raise the question of serious power situation in Assam in particular and North-East region in general, where there is a complete failure of electric supply. This is causing serious inconvenience to the people of the State. Whenever